

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A roaster for powder and granular material comprising:

a charging port through which powder is charged;

a drum housing the powder charged through said charging port; and

a heating unit heating the powder housed in said drum;

wherein a preheating chamber which preheats the powder charged through said charging port, and communicates with said drum, is provided between said charging port and said drum.

2. (Original) The roaster for powder and granular material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said preheating chamber comprises:

a powder support member supporting the powder charged through said charging port, and having a large number of through-holes;

a hot air supply unit supplying hot air from the lower side of said powder support member; and

an exhaust unit discharging the air in said preheating chamber out into the external.

3. (Original) The roaster for powder and granular material as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the hot air supplied by said hot air supply unit to said preheating chamber is an air heated by a heating unit heating the powder housed in said drum.

4. (Currently amended) The roaster for powder and granular material as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1, to 3,~~ wherein said drum is supported by a plurality of rotating components in a rotative manner, all of or, a part of said rotating components having a plurality of stepped portions formed thereon by which said drum is agitated.

5. (Original) The roaster for powder and granular material as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said drum has a flange portion on the outer circumference thereof, each of said rotating components has a groove allowing said flange portion to be inserted therein, and said stepped portion is formed either on the outer circumferential surface of said flange portion or on the ring—formed outer circumferential surfaces in the groove of said rotating components on which the flange portion inserted in said groove is rolled.

6. (Original) The roaster for powder and granular material as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein said rotating components are configured by a first and a second rotating components disposed on one lower lateral side of said drum and coupled with each other through one coupling axis, and a third and a fourth rotating components disposed on the other lower lateral side of said drum and coupled with each other through the other coupling axis in parallel with said one coupling axis, and said stepped portions are formed on both of said first and said second rotating components disposed ahead in the direction of movement of the powder housed in said drum caused by rotation thereof, or on both of said third and fourth rotating components.